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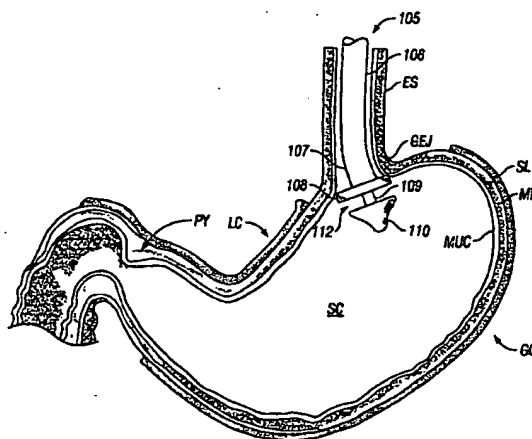
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(54) Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR USE IN ENDOSCOPIC ORGAN PROCEDURES



(57) Abstract: Methods and devices for use in tissue approximation and fixation are described herein. The present invention provides, in part, methods and devices for acquiring tissue folds in a circumferential configuration within a hollow body organ, e.g., a stomach, positioning the tissue folds for affixing within a fixation zone of the stomach, preferably to create a pouch or partition below the esophagus, and fastening the tissue folds such that a tissue ring, or stomas, forms excluding the pouch from the greater stomach cavity. The present invention further provides for a liner or bypass conduit which is affixed at a proximal end either to the tissue ring or through some other fastening mechanism. The distal end of the conduit is left either unanchored or anchored within the intestinal tract. This bypass conduit also includes a fluid bypass conduit which allows the stomach and a portion of the intestinal tract to communicate.

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International application No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER												
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC												
B. FIELDS SEARCHED												
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : Please See Continuation Sheet												
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched												
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) Easi: gastric bypass; gastroplasty; stomach bypass; stomach reduction												
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT												
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.										
A	US 4,716,900 A (RAVO et al.) 05 January 1998 (05.01.1998), See entire document.	1-81										
X	US 5,306,300 A (BERRY) 26 April 1994 (26.04.1994), See entire document.	1, 4, 6-8, 16-23, 18-30, 40-42, 75-81										
Y		2, 3, 9-15, 24-27, 31-39, 43-61										
Y	US 5,458,131 A (WILK) 17 October 1995 (17.10.1995), See entire document.	28-61										
X	US 5,820,584 A (CRABB) 13 October 1998 (13.10.1998), See entire document.	1, 4, 6-8, 16-23, 28-30, 40-42, 75-81										
Y		2, 3, 9-15, 24-27, 31-39, 43-61										
Y	US 5,676,659 A (McGURK) 14 October 1997 (14.10.1997), See entire document.	2, 3, 24-27										
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.												
* Special categories of cited documents: <table border="0"> <tr> <td>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td> <td>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date</td> <td>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</td> <td>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td> <td>"&" document member of the same patent family</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention	"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone	"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art	"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family	"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	
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C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6,159,195 A (HA et al.) 12 December 2000 (12.12.2000), See entire document.	2,3,24,25
Y	US 6,254,642 B1 (TAYLOR) 03 July 2001 (03.07.2001), See entire document.	43-74
A	US 6,447,533 B1 (ADAMS) 10 September 2002 (10.09.2002), See entire document.	43-74

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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 1:

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